



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Riverside employee recognized as state leader for employee relations work**

RIVERSIDE, Calif – Going to work in Riverside is peaceful thanks to Riverside Human Resources Department employee Steven Espinoza recognized this week by California Public Employers' Relations Association (CALPELRA) with the "Moving Forward Award 2010".

The "Moving Forward Award" was created to recognize innovative leadership. The award honors organizations and individuals who have had an impact by improving labor relations, resolving disputes, addressing new challenges, or by assisting others in their growth in the profession.

Riverside's Human Resources Department mission centers around improving employee productivity through development of harmonious relationships with employees and employee organizations. Steve, a 3 year city employee, was recognized for his unique leadership in creating partnerships with management and labor groups. "Steve seems to have that winning combination of skill and finesse that works for employees and management, something he calls 'labor peace'" said Human Resources Director, Rhonda Strout.

According to Steve, he refuses to accept the traditional approach to negotiations that labor and management work against each other. With his background as a labor union leader, he learned first-hand how most of labor viewed their role and believes that the target to aim for is not necessarily the 'solution', but rather the manner in which the solution is reached.

IBEW Local 47 Business Manager Stan Stosel said "He [Steve] is constantly looking for win-win solutions to even the most difficult issues and is open to exploring unique and innovative solutions."

According to Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge, "Employees are the cornerstone of our city. Steve deserves this recognition for the innovative manner in which he has guided labor relations during a difficult economic time."

CALPELRA is a professional, nonprofit California association established in 1975, comprised of public sector management representatives responsible for carrying out the labor relations / human resource programs for their jurisdictions

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